

MHSSC ACADEMY PROGRAM

Overview and Application Process

2026

STEM Academy

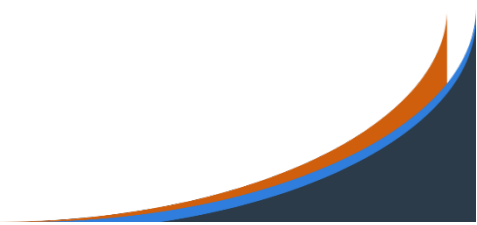
English Humanities Academy



MANGO HILL
STATE SECONDARY COLLEGE

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Academy Programs

Overview

The Academy Program is specifically designed to further enrich and challenge high-achieving Years 7- 9 students through a tailored enrichment program. Building on the College vision of 'Real Learning for the world of tomorrow', students are challenged to advance their critical thinking, problem solving, resilience and passion for learning, and prepare for the dynamic and evolving demands of the modern world.

Students involved in the Academy Program will engage with an innovative curriculum designed to challenge and inspire. This curriculum not only sets high standards for excellence but also empowers students to achieve outstanding academic success. Through a considered approach to the program objectives, students will be equipped with the strong academic foundation and skills necessary to confidently navigate and meet the demands of their senior secondary pathway and post schooling options.

Objectives

- Enhance students' academic capabilities through a rigorous and engaging curriculum, tailored to student's strengths, interests and future aspirations
- Encourage students to analyse situations, evaluate information, devise innovative solutions and approach challenges with confidence and creativity
- Provide unique opportunities for students to collaborate with community and industry to provide real-world experiences and insights into various career pathways
- Ignite students' intrinsic motivation to pursue knowledge and personal growth
- Foster and uphold high expectations for attendance, engagement, behaviour and academic performance within the program

Learning Pathways

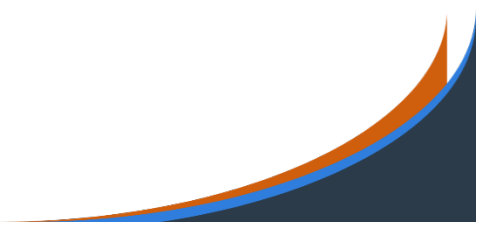
In 2026, the College will be offering one class each of the following Academy Programs for Year 7 students:

- English and Humanities – History, Geography, Economics and Business, and Civics and Citizenship
- STEM – Science, Technology and Engineering, and Mathematics

The curriculum program for students engaged in an Academy Program learning pathway aligns with the broader structure for students in Year 7 2026, offering a range of learning areas directed by the Australian Curriculum, with targeted and tailored learning specific to the program. Students in an Academy Program will remain together as a core class grouping for all of Year 7.

The Academy Program is intended as a three-year program and students joining in Year 7 2026 will continue their studies in Year 8 in 2027, and Year 9 in 2028, provided they continue to meet the expectations of the program. The learning pathway will continue to align with the Australian Curriculum offerings of Year 8 and 9 for the College, with targeted learning in the specific subjects relevant to the Academy Program.

Applications for Year 8 2026 are welcome. Please note acceptance into the Year 8 program in 2026 is subject to waitlist and class capacity.



Academy Program Learning Pathways

	English Humanities	STEM
Academy Program Subjects studied for two semesters (year-long)	English Humanities – encompassing History, Geography, Economics and Business, and Civics and Citizenship	Mathematics Science Technologies – encompassing Digital Technology, Engineering, and Materials Specialisations and Technologies
CORE subjects studied for two semesters (year-long)	Mathematics Science	English Humanities – History and Geography
Subjects studied for one semester only	Health and Physical Education Italian (Languages)	Health and Physical Education Italian (languages)
Elective subjects studied for one term only	The Arts – two streams studied for one term each Technologies – two streams studied for one term each	<i>Please note that students in the STEM Academy complete a year-long technologies program in Year 7, and as such <u>do not</u> engage in the Arts in Year 7. Opportunity to engage in the Arts will be provided in the Year 8 curriculum program.</i>
LYF – Living Your Future	Well-being subject studied once a week for all year levels.	

Eligibility and Application Process

The Academy Program is a selective entry program. The entry process for 2026 enrolment involves the following stages:

	Details	Date
Stage 1	Application Process	Due Monday 16 June 2025 (Week 9 Term 2)
Stage 2	Acer General Ability Test (AGAT) Program specific short response testing and Interview	3.00pm Thursday 24 July 2025 (approx. one hour) Full Day Friday 25 July 2025 (Week 2, Term 3) *Reserve Full Day Wednesday 30 July 2025 (Week 3, Term 3)
Stage 3	Offer of Acceptance	Issued Week 5 Term 3

*Students applying for both academy programs will need to attend two testing days. This day may also be used to accommodate high numbers of applicants.

In 2026, the Academy Program is limited to one class for each of 'English and Humanities' and 'STEM'. Acceptance into the program will be decided upon based on the selection criteria included in the relevant applications, including:

- Completed application
- Two most recent Academic Reports
- Most recent NAPLAN report (if applicable)
- Diagnostic and short response testing undertaken as part of Stage 2
- Interview conducted as part of Stage 2

Students are able to apply for one or both of the Academy Program learning pathways on offer for 2026. If applying for both learning pathways, students will need to submit both applications, and indicate this clearly in the relevant section of the application, including their preferred option. Through the selection process, successful applicants who applied for both programs will be offered only one position in an Academy Program.

Applications open Wednesday 30 April 2025. Newly enrolling students applying for an Academy Program must have a submitted enrolment application for the 2026 school year at the time of application, that meets the expectations of the [College Enrolment Process](#).

Please note that students who live outside of the MHSSC catchment area cannot be considered for the Academy Program unless offered a place at the College via the 'Out of Catchment Expression of Interest' process.

Expectations

Students who are selected for the Academy Program will be committed to the course for the three-year program (Year 7-9), unless the student does not meet the expectations of program.

A student will maintain enrolment within the Academy Program if they continue to meet the standards upon which their acceptance was initially determined. Students must maintain a high level of achievement in all subjects in order to maintain their position in the program throughout the year.

Student performance will be reviewed at specific junctures, and students will be required to adhere to the high level of expectations through achievement, effort, behaviour and attendance across all subjects as indicated through semester results and other data sets available to the College.

At any time, Mango Hill State Secondary College reserves the right to remove a student from the Academy Program for reasons of behaviour, attendance, engagement and/or academic suitability. The Principal reserves the right to remove a student from the program at any point.

If a student elects to move to a core class grouping throughout the program, or at the end of a year, written communication from a parent/carer is required. Depending on timetabling considerations as well as a consideration of the stage of learning occurring at the time, a move may not be possible immediately. A move to a core grouping will be actioned by the Deputy Principal for the year level, and allocation to a class group determined by the College.

Waitlist Process

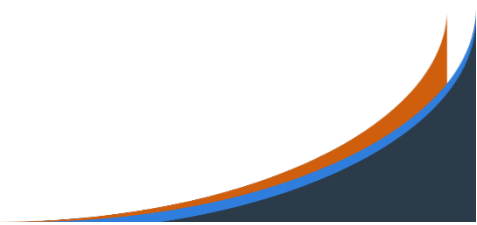
The College will operate a wait list process for the Academy Program with the order of students on the wait list determined through the application testing and interview process. The College will adhere to the maximum class size of 28 students, and as positions in the program arise, offers of acceptance will be made from the wait list.

Students new to the College in 2025 have opportunity to apply to join the wait list for consideration if a position arises. Students enrolled at the College who wish to be considered for Year 8 2026 will have opportunity to apply during the 2025 school year.

Course and Resource Fees

Students in the Academy Program will need access to a range of texts and resources in order to participate in the course. Therefore, enrolment within the program is contingent upon Student Resource Fees (SRF) having been paid in full, or on an agreed payment plan.

The Academy Program will involve a range of excursions and external competitions that will incur further costs. Where these costs can be anticipated, they will be included in a Subject Fee for the Academy Program, published as part of the 2026 Student Resource Scheme information.



Additional costs will be informed through consent processes and invoiced accordingly for any other competitions or excursions as they arise. This will include travel costs which cannot be determined as part of a subject fee.

BYOx Expectations

The College operates a BYOx iPad program for students in Year 7 – 9. Students involved in the Academy Program will be expected to be participating in the College BYOx program, and have access to a personal iPad device that can be used for learning.

If your child is successful in gaining entry to an Academy Program, but are experiencing financial difficulties that impact engagement with course and resource fees and/or the BYOx program, please contact the College to arrange an appointment to discuss options. Any information that you provide will remain confidential.

Application Checklist

Use the following checklist to support completion of applications for the Academy Program. Applications are available on the College Website via Enrolments.

Checklist	✓
Application form completed and attached	
Your child's two most recent report cards attached	
Your child's most recent NAPLAN report attached (if applicable)	
Completed enrolment application / Out of Catchment Expression of Interest application submitted to enrolments@mangohillssc.eq.edu.au	

Applications and supporting information must be emailed by the due date to Academy@mangohillssc.eq.edu.au

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Important Dates for 2026 Enrolment and Application:

College Enrolments Open	Wednesday 30 April 2025
2026 Academy Program Applications open	Wednesday 30 April 2025
Stage 1 Academy Program Applications close <i>Note: Late submissions will not be accepted</i>	Monday 16 July 2025
Stage 2 Academy Program Testing and Interviews	3.00pm Thursday 24 July 2025 (approx. one hour) Full Day Friday 25 July 2025 (Week 2, Term 3) *Reserve Full Day Wednesday 30 July 2025 (Week 3, Term 3)
Stage 3 Academy Program Offer of Acceptance Due	Issued Week 5 Term 3

*Students applying for both academy programs will need to attend two testing days. This day may also be used to accommodate high numbers of applicants.

English and Humanities Academy

Overview

In the English and Humanities Academy, students undertake an enriching program exploring a diverse array of disciplines. The program is suited to individuals who possess a passion for literature, adeptness in communication, a penchant for critical inquiry, and a flair for creativity.

In English, students will navigate challenging and captivating fiction and non-fiction texts, honing their abilities to engage with complex ideas. With a focus on refining their own unique writing styles and voices, students will cultivate the craft of expression.

In History, the learning program fosters analytical prowess as students explore various historical epochs, from Ancient History to Modern History, employing critical thinking to scrutinize societal norms and structures. Additionally, students will also complete units in the curriculum areas of Geography, Economics and Business, and Civics and Citizenship as part of the Year 7 and 8 Academy Program. They will be empowered to address pressing global issues through the lens of sustainability and entrepreneurship, equipping them with the skills to innovate and effect change.

Students will engage with a variety of deep curriculum opportunities in the fields of:

- English: creative, analytical and evaluative writing related to a range of texts and topics (novels, articles, tv episodes/movies, graphic novels)
- English: reading and responding to a range of challenging and appealing fiction and non-fiction texts, beyond that of their year level
- English: developing the craft of writing and refining their own writing style and voice
- History: using analytical and evaluative skills when exploring different historical periods (Year 7 Ancient History, Year 8 Medieval History, Year 9 Modern History)
- Geography: applying critical thinking and creative solutions to sustainability issues
- Economics and Business: developing entrepreneurship skills to respond to real world problems
- Civics and Citizenship: reflecting on legal and social justice challenges and ways to promote an equitable society

This program is suited for students who are:

- Avid readers of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Confident users of written and spoken language
- Critical thinkers who examine the way the world works
- Creative thinkers

Enrichment Opportunities and Competitions

Students will be provided with opportunities to engage with a range of learning experiences that connect learning to the real world. The following list of learning experiences and competitions serves as examples of enrichment opportunities and competitions relevant to the program. Students may engage in additional activities and experiences as part of the learning program.

- Voices on the Coast Literature Festival
- Brisbane Writer's Festival
- Writer in Residence
- Museum excursions and workshops
- Reader's Cup
- Australian Geography competition
- Australian History competition
- National History challenge



STEM Academy

Overview

The STEM Academy is a dynamic program tailored for students with a passion and curiosity for real world problem-solving. This will be done through dissecting STEM into its core components: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. With independent modules for each aspect, our program aims to boost capabilities and ignite a passion for learning.

Students will engage with a variety of curriculum opportunities aligned to the key objectives of:

- Science Discovery: Fostering inquiry-based learning and critical thinking through hands-on experiments and real-world applications.
- Tech Proficiency: Equipping students with coding, robotics, and digital design skills, and preparing them for the digital age workforce.
- Engineering Challenges: Cultivating creativity and problem-solving through hands-on projects and design challenges.
- Mathematical Mastery: Developing mathematical reasoning and data analysis skills, showcasing the relevance of mathematics in everyday life.

The STEM Academy program nurtures REAL STEM leaders of tomorrow for a brighter future. The Learning pathway is designed to cultivate a dynamic learning environment where students engage in hands-on activities, emphasizing practical learning through experiments, projects, and simulations. Students are empowered to tackle complex challenges with confidence as they are supported to develop critical thinking, questioning, analysis, and creative problem-solving. Through a collaborative learning environment, teamwork, communication, and mutual respect are fostered, enabling students to thrive and learn from one another. Students will be motivated to explore and pursue fulfilling career paths in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through meaningful interactions with diverse STEM fields and professionals, providing invaluable career insights and opportunities for growth.

Enrichment Opportunities and Competitions

Students will be provided with opportunities to engage with a range of learning experiences that connect learning to the real world. The following list of learning experiences and competitions serves as examples of enrichment opportunities and competitions relevant to the program. Students may engage in additional activities and experiences as part of the learning program.

- Big Science Competition
 - QUT High School Student Workshops
 - Young ICT Explorers
 - Murrumba Math Tournament
 - Advanced Manufacturing Future Skills Program
 - ICAS Competitions
 - CSIRO CREST Awards
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